Alleged KGB Flush Money Deals

2229. SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report entitled "KGB flush money deals haunt leaders" published in the "Economic Times" dated the 23rd February, 1995;

(b) whether Government have enquired into the report;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY; (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No enquiries were made in this regard as the news report did not disclose contravention of any specific Act.

Levels of Import duties

2230. SHRI K.R. MALKANI; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: -

(a) what was the general level of import duties on different categories of goods in May, 1991;

(b) what is it at present; and

(c) how this has affected Indian industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The general levels of import duty on certain categories of goods in May, 1991 and as on 16th March, 1995 are given in statement, *(see* below).

(c) The objective behind reduction in customs duties is to move to a regime of low to moderate duties which is essential for efficient

Statement

The average rate of duty in respect of certain broad category items prevailing in May, 1991 and as on 16th March, 1995 after incorporation of the 1995 budgetary changes is given below. It may be noted that the rates of duty are the highest general effective rates of duty and represent the average incidence. Lower rates of duty on some of these items may also apply depending upon end use.

	Category	*Average Rates as on May, 1991*	*Average Rates w.e.f. 16.3.95*
1.	Project imports & General Capital goods	80%+nil C.V.D.	25%+10% C.V.D.
2.	Machine Tools	70% to 125%	25%+10% C.V.D.
2	Instruments		40%+60%+25%
3.	Inorganic Chemicals	120%	50%
4.	Organic Chemicals		120% 50%
5.	Plastics	Rs. 7000/MT to 205%	40%
6.	Crude Petroleum	Rs. 1500/MT	35%
7.	Petroleum products		
	Motor spirit	Nil	'\30%
	Furnance oil, HSD Kerosene	Nil	-Nil
8.	Textile fibres and yarns		
	Polyster filament yarn	200%	45%
	Polyster fibres	185%+Rs. 7/Kg.	45%
	Nylon filament yarn	105%	45%
	Viscose fibre	60%	25%
9.	Metal and Metal products		
	Stainless steel	205%	40%
	Unwrought copper	10,500/MT+50%	35%
	Unwrought Zinc	Rs. 5,700/MT+50%	35%
	Unwrought Lead	Rs. 7500/MT+50%	35%